Rescue Hook and Ladder Co. initiated growth

By S. ROBERT POWELL

The first organization in Carbondale intended as a protection against fire was the Rescue Hook and Ladder Company, which was formed in 1843. The officers of the Rescue Hook and Ladder Company in 1847 were: George Love, foreman; John Lewis, assistant foreman. There were 20 members on the roll. The great fire of September 28, 1850, awakened the community to the need for effective protection against fires, and four other companies were formed: Neptune Fire Company (First Ward), Eagle Fire Company (Second Ward), Rescue Fire Company (Third Ward), and Good Will Fire Company (Fourth Ward).

The officers of the Neptune Fire Company were: G. Love, captain; G.H. Wentz, assistant captain; Lewis Pughe, treasurer; James Ruthven, secretary. The officers of the Rescue Fire Company were: David Prendergast, foreman; G.F. Fordham, first assistant; Alonzo Eaton, second assistant; Renselear David, secretary; S.K. Waldron, treasurer. The Neptune Fire Company was disbanded on June 28, 1854.

When present-day City Hall was being built in 1892-1894, a large quantity of documents relating to the early history of Carbondale were located in the vaults of City Hall. Many of those documents were published in the pages of "The Carbondale Leader." From one such document that was reprinted in the "Leader" on May 19, 1893 (page 4), we learn the names of the officers and members of the Eagle Fire Company: James E. White, forman; John McKillip, first assistant; S.T. Corby, second assistant; W.R. Baker, secretary; A.L. Hunt, treasurer.

The following residents of Carbondale's Second Ward were members of the Eagle Fire Company: James E. White, John McKillip, S.T. Corby, A.L. Hunt, W.R. Baker, Charles Hagan, Thomas Loftus, Michael Roach, Alexander La Grander, H. La Fount, Michael Hagan, James Herbert, John Jenkins, Thomas Mathews, John W. Hughes, John O'Grady, Duncan Cameron, Washington Burr, E.G. Root, P.C. Gritman, William Watkins, I.N. Jackson, Alex McLaren, Adam Bryden, John Rafter, George W. Reynolds, Daniel Prendergast, William Miller, Robert Eaton Sr., Oscar Oram, John Aitken Jr., George F. Perkins, C. Harrison, G.W. Griswold, John McFalane, Phillips Wilson, Frank Robinson, William Moonie, Andrew Simpson, James Turner, Joseph Gillespie, Orlando Jadwin, Thomas Voyle, John Case, Frank Durfee, William Bryden, James Gerond, Cornelius Jadwin and Francis Miller.

Similarly, we learn the names of the officers and members of the Good Will Fire Company from one of the documents that was discovered in the vaults when the present City Hall was being erected, and published in the "Leader" on May 22, 1893 (page 2). The officers of this fire company were: Michael Flynn, foreman; Bernard MacTighe, assistant foreman; Peter Dockerty, treasurer: Thomas Farrell, secretary.

P. A. Rivenburg. Foreman of the Mitchell Hose Company in 1893.

The following residents of Carbondale's Fourth Ward were members of the Good Will Fire Company: Isaac Wolfe, William Hunter, Owen Loftus, James O'Donnell, Patrick O'Donnell, Michael Jordan, Michael McCann, Patrick White, Thomas Murray, Patrick Kerins, Patrick Murray, Thomas Farrell Jr., Patrick Doherty, Michale Munley, William Walker Jr., John Farrell, Edward Gordon, Peter Grimes, Michael Serdiville, Patrick Mullowny, Michael Murphy, John Nolan, Thomas Coogan, Patrick Menton, Patrick Walsh, James Coggil, Peter Duffy, James Geraghty, Patrick Duffy, John Duffy, Martin Nolan, John McAndrew, Patrick Healey, Michael Loftus, Timothy McDermot, Patrick Barrett, John Boyle, Lawrence Nally, Edward Hughes, James Henehan, Martin McAndrews, Thomas Stanton, Dudley Gordon, Patrick Ferguson, Andrew Farrell, Daniel Farrell, James McDonough, Anthony Clifford, Martin Lynch, John Finegan, Thomas Gordon, Thomas Nolan and William Brennan.

William P. Peel. Foreman of the Columbia Hose Company in 1893.

The Neptune, Eagle, Rescue and Good Will Fire Companies were each provided with a small engine, built at the Delaware & Hudson shops in Carbondale. These four companies operated for some time, but failed to receive proper support from the city authorities and were disbanded, their engines being returned to the Delaware & Hudson.

On July 10, 1855, the "Button's Piano" pattern fire engine that was ordered by the city's authorities arrived in Carbondale, the day being made a gala occasion. In 1893, this engine was owned by the Columbia Hose Company.

Abe L. Sahm. Treasurer of the Columbia Hose Company in 1893.

In 1857, the Columbia Hose Company was organized, with 96 men on the roll. The officers of the company at that time were: David Prendergast, foreman; Richard Howarth, first assistant foreman; Charles B. Campbell, second assistant foreman.

On May 10, 1893, Carbondale's Fire Chief, P.F. Moffitt, and Columbia's President, B.A. Kelly, laid the corner stone of the three-story brick Columbia Hose Company building that stood between City Hall and the former Miners'